

# Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman,  
Bishop, President of LDRNY*

**L**utheran Churches in the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) responded with programs, services and outreach to help comfort those affected. With almost 230 congregations in the greater Metropolitan New York area, many churches were directly affected by the disaster. Others felt the wave affects as loved ones and friends were working in or around the Twin Towers on Sept. 11. Many of the churches applied for LDRNY Comfort and Renew grants, offering programs to aid those affected by Sept. 11.

The Asian community of New York City was particularly affected by Sept. 11, as many community members worked in nearby Chinatown and in the service industries around Ground Zero. There are almost a dozen Asian churches in the MNYS, one of the fastest growing communities in the ELCA in New York. Churches were able to rely on the services that LDRNY supported, including the New Life Center for the Fujianese population. The Synod also assigned a special assistant to the Bishop for Immigration Outreach (Asian) to work with strengthening these congregations.

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## LDRNY

Lutheran Disaster Response  
of New York

22 Cortlandt Street • 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
1-866-864-1600  
www.LDRNY.org

### LDRNY MISSION STATEMENT

*To respond directly and encourage and facilitate response from others to the needs of persons and their families affected both directly and indirectly by tragedy or disaster.*



**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD  
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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In September 2003, the Synod called a pastor to serve Lower Manhattan. The Rev. Dr. Rip Hoffman has been busy building the Community of Hope Ministry, and shares offices with LDRNY. Pr. Tom Taylor of St. John's, Bellmore, was named deputy coordinator of LDRNY for Long Island.

In addition, the Synod hosted a delegation of ELCA Bishops and pastors from around the country who came to New York City in April 2002 to show support and solidarity for what local pastors and congregations were going through. Many of the visiting pastors preached for the local pastors, giving them a Sunday off for respite.

Respite for pastors has been a building block of LDRNY's partnership with the Synod. It has supported many programs for pastors, including special spiritual retreats.

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## **Ashirwad After-School Program Ashirwad Lutheran Ministry, St. Peter's Floral Park**

Ashirwad began an after-school program which addressed the academic and emotional needs of South Asian children in the wake of Sept. 11. Many Indian children have experienced racial profiling in their schools and neighborhoods and are in need of a safe and supportive environment in which to play and learn. The program is open to the entire community and serves the needs of children from a variety of faith backgrounds, including Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic. As a result of the program. Vacation Bible School and a New Ground Day Camp were also held.